

The Day of the Child

By Wilbur D. Nesbit

The tree shines with the candle glow,
The tinkets glitter jewel-wise,
And we would that our souls might know
The joy told in the children's eyes,
Such their delight as this of theirs—
A season's happiness it is!
And eye toward the message bears:
This is the children's day—and Hist!

Let us come, as the Wise Men came
Three nineteen centuries ago,
Led by the Star's eternal flame
That bade them rise and hasten on,
They brought rare frankincense and
myrrh,
They brought rich gems and graven
gold,
They knelt, adoring, near to Her,
And all their marvelings they told.

Aye, as those Men of long ago,
To-day we, too, may see the Star,
May see its mystic heavenly glow
Flash out o'er Childland fair and
far;

And from our hands now fall the gifts
And we know why the Wise Men
smiled
With gratefulness; and each heart lifts
Its chant of worship of the Child.

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FROM THE SPRITES

A STORY FOR CHILDREN



WHILE the ancient traditions of Christmas time have been handed down from generation to generation for hundreds of years the holiday has been so modernized and improved of late that it has almost lost its ancient lore and customs remains. In this day the old form of celebrating

the day is seldom seen. As the yule log vanished with the advent of the stove so the simple ways which amused the youngsters of yesterday have disappeared and in their stead comes to-day an endless line of mechanical devices. The dolls of to-day open and close their eyes and even speak; the toy steam train runs by real steam power; the miniature electric car is driven by real electricity; the toy animals and insects move about like real life. Now Christmas trees are purchased at the grocery store and are illuminated at night with tiny electric lights instead of candles. Instead of popcorn balls and cornucopias of candy the tree is decorated with gilt and tinsel ropes and stars. More automobile horns are heard now on Christmas day than sleigh bells. Steam heat and electric radiators take the place of open fires and plenty of money makes the day even more enjoyable than ever before.

Much Due to Electricity.

Electricity, which has invaded every nook and cranny of life to-day, has assisted more than any one thing in modernizing the Christmas celebration. The electric cars hurry Christmas callers from house to house. On Christmas eve the buildings and streets are ablaze with countless electric lights. Electric telephones and telegraph are wishing every one many happy returns of the day. The wireless carries "Merry Christmas" from ship to ship and the electric cable flashes the good will of governments around the earth.

The new electric ovens sizzle with the roasting turkey and the electric stove is rushed to prepare the many appetizing viands for which the day of feast calls. Electric door-bells are jingling; electrical musical instruments furnish the music for the Christmas carols; the electric motors, which have worked so faithfully in preparing the many valuable presents of a thousand different varieties, are enjoying a day's rest after the bustling days of the holiday trade.

Useful Christmas Presents.

Year by year it grows more the cus-

tom to make Christmas presents just as useful as possible. While expense is not considered so material as it used to be it is important that the gifts should be useful as well as ornamental. This is as it should be. Here again electricity finds a useful field. The development of the electric heating and cooking devices has added a host of valuable and useful things which are always acceptable Christmas gifts. The electric chafing dish, electric shaving mug and electric coffee percolator will be numbered among the most conspicuous of useful Christmas presents. The electrical list also contains electric flat-irons, electric cookers, luminous radiators, massage machines, hair dryers, curling iron heaters, water heaters, tea kettles, baby milk warmer and a number of other useful things, not to mention the electric toys.

This year will see less money wasted for useless trinkets than ever before.

Gifts from Wall Paper.

Get a sample book of wall paper which can be had for the asking when the season is over. For a waste paper basket cut a pattern six inches at the top, tapering to four inches at the bottom, and 12 inches high, which is a good size for a lady's desk. Cut four sections from cardboard and a square 4x4 inches for the bottom. Cover the outside of each piece with a pretty design of the wall paper, cutting the pieces a little larger than cardboard, pasting the edges on to the wrong side, use a contrasting color for the inside, plain paper is prettier and cut just the size of the section. Punch holes near the top and bottom of each piece and two on each side of the bottom piece, near corner; tie the pieces together with baby ribbon, it requiring about three yards. One can make different sizes, small ones for hair receivers or with a little pad in bottom for jewelry, also glove and handkerchief boxes. Cover empty thread boxes and fill with home-made candy.

Lesson from the Past.

Lady Godiva explained.
"It was a compromise," she said.
"The original proposition was that I should appear on the street in a diaphanous gown."
From which we learn that they drew the line in those days.—Chicago Tribune.

The Stove Went Out.

Mistress—Get dinner to-day on the gasoline-stove, Bridget.
Bridget—Please, mum, I did try, but th' stove went out.
Mistress—Try again, then.
Bridget—Yes, mum, but it's not come back yet. It went out 't'rough th' roof.
—New York Weekly.

A Christmas Carol



HE night was darker than ever before
(So dark is sin),
When the Great Love came to the stable door
And entered in,
And laid Himself in the breach of line
And the warmth of hay,
And whispered to the Star to shine
And to break, the day.
—Alice Sewell.

THE CHRISTMAS OF TODAY

[Letter enclosed in a box which will arrive about 7 a. m. Christmas day for Fred, the protégé of learned sprites.]



EAR FRED: Within this package you will find some little things; just a crumb or two of pleasure, such as any fellow flings to a friend he's met but once or twice and yet considers rather nice and thinks of what the jolly season brings. We remember, sir, your courtesy in sitting while we lectured on the knowledge that is proven, also that

which is conjectured. To our utter gratitude you were never, never rude, for your heart, indeed, is very finely textured.

When the series of discourses found its most untimely close, we assembled in a cornfield, and indeed we nearly froze. We'd forgotten, we're so old, there was such a thing as cold, and we're much too smart to think of things like those. But our hearts are always warm, and in thinking, Fred, of you, such a warmth arose as any time would boil an oyster stew. Then, a baking in the heat, we did all of us compete in discussion of what would and wouldn't do. Once the argument grew fierce, but over this we'll draw a veil. We are all of us so learned that we thought (you know the tale), that we each of us knew what would lend the greatest zest—what a modern boy would not consider stale.

We consulted sundry lists which only mixed us up the worse; we rejected some suggestions far too long for any purpose; and we bickered and we snickered, while above the moonlight flickered, and discovered that ideal things were "scourge." And at last we gave up trying to decide it for each other, and departed, saying: "Give him what you like, my learned brother." So each made his own selection; which accounts for the complexion of the articles we hope you'll show your mother.

On the top you'll find a ticket for a trip around the earth. This, of course, is from old Jogerfy, the chap who had a dearth of ideas, but in fact was rather diligent than lax; he is hoping that you realized his worth.

Next in order is a dictionary—don't turn up your nose. It's no ordinary volume, as its queer appearance shows. When you're stuck for what to say, turn the knob the proper way, and the word is in your mouth, and out it goes. In this book is every language, even including that of birds and the speech the cows are using when they stroll about in herds. Why, you cannot go astray, as to how and what to say, if you use the present sent you by old Worlds.

With apologies we mention what you get from Anglo-Saxon. He's the chap for whom the speech of other nations had attraction. He sat down, it seems, and wrote you a promissory note. You will never get the coin without exaction.

From Numero, a present that will comfort you, we feel. It's a table with a marvelous, unusual kind of wheel. Yes, a multiplication table; turn the crank, if you are able, and you'll have before your eyes a luscious meal.

Old History, the grandpa of the whole great human race, sends a Patent Iron Memory—a thing you can't replace. Put it 'way unto your ear, and you'll find that all you hear you'll remember quite distinctly—for a space.

And lastly, Hy G. Ene, the man who gave you such a scare, puts in something you can always use and something you can wear. It's a thing that makes for health; indeed, for happiness and wealth. It's an everlasting bottle of fresh air.

So remember, when your toys are spread about you on the rug, that the Learned Sprites have tried to make you happy; they have dug in the pres-

ent-mines of China, than the which there's nothing finer, and we're sending you as much as we could lug. If you use these little gifts that we are forwarding just right you will never have to listen to another learned sprite. But there's one thing more, to-wit: "Merry Christmas,"—that is it.

So we hereunto subscribe, in black and white:

- JOGERFY.
- WORDS.
- ANGLO-SAXON.
- NUMERO.
- GRANDFATHER HISTORY.
- HY G. ENE.



TWO DINNERS FOR CHRISTMAS.

Menus in Which Roast Beef and Goose Are the Leading Entrees.

For the Christmas feast roast beef or roast young goose are the prime favorites, taking the precedence of turkey, which very soon after the first of December begins to lose its delicacy of flavor. The English dinner of roast beef and plum pudding is historic, and in recent years Americans have generally followed the custom of serving an English dinner on Christmas, improving on the old country menus by the addition of dainty entrees and salads.

Here are some suggestions for menus for Christmas home dinners.

- MENU NO. 1.
- Grape Fruit with Sherry.
 - Olives, Radishes.
 - Small Oysters, Roasted in Shell.
 - Cream of Chicken.
 - Roast Sirloin of Beef.
 - Macaroni au Gratin.
 - Hermuda Potatoes, New String Beans.
 - Eudive Salad.
 - Toasted Wafers and Edam Cheese.
 - Plum Pudding.
 - Fruit.
 - Coffee.
- MENU NO. 2.
- Oysters on the Half Shell.
 - Cream of Celery.
 - Fried Smelts, Sauce Tartare.
 - Hothouse Cucumbers.
 - Roast Young Goose.
 - Apple Sauce.
 - Mashed Potatoes, Boiled White Onions.
 - Stuffed Green Peppers.
 - Romaine Salad and Toasted Wafers.
 - Roquefort Cheese.
 - Plum Pudding or Mince Pie.
 - Coffee.
 - Fruit.

She Had Tried It.

Belle—This holly is my hair wants a little relief—it's too red.
Aunt—Well, why not put in a sprig or two of mistletoe, dear?
Belle—Nonsense, aunt! Why, I should have all the young men kissing me.
Aunt—Indeed, no, my dear. They'd do nothing of the kind. I've tried 'em!

Human Nature's Weaknesses.

"I don't mind Mrs. Gishaw making fun of the way I talk," said Mrs. Lapsing, forgivingly. "It's only her way. We've all got our little peculiarities and idiosyncrasies." — Chicago Tribune.

How They Love Each Other!

Horace—I can't understand you girls. Now, you hate Mabel, and yet you kissed her.
Hetty—I know; but just see how the freckles show where I kissed the powder off.—Pick Me Up.

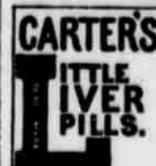
An Odd Combination.

"Young De Peyster's match with that girl who so unexpectedly fell into a fortune was a brilliant stroke."
"In what way?"
"He made a lucky hit with a lucky miss."—Baltimore American.

For Scenic Effect.

"You don't mean to say that you are going back to horses?"
"Temporarily. I have moved to a new country place, and I thought I should like to become acquainted with the scenery."—Life.

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